

3-11-1970

# Ridge History Vignettes Presented

PARADISE (E-R) — Vignettes of Paradise history were presented by Mrs. Louise Miller in her talk to the Northern California history class Monday evening.

A resident of the ridge since 1938, Mrs. Miller has interviewed many of the longtime residents. She wrote a series of articles for the "Paradise Post" from 1950-52 in which she told many of these stories gleaned from her interviews.

Portions of some of these stories were recounted during the evening's program, Mrs. Ruby Swartzlow, class instructor, reported.

Knowing the interest of Paradise residents in gold mining on the ridge, Mrs. Miller introduced her talk with several humorous anecdotes regarding miners. The miners were paid \$3 per day at the Magalia mine, she said, and in order to supplement their income during the winter they would cut wood at 75 cents a tier or work at shearing sheep in the valley at 5-8 cents a head.

Home remedies used in the early days were described by Mrs. Miller as well as various superstitions. Names of early day doctors of the ridge were

mentioned, including the Chinese herb doctor, Ah Sang, who had a sanitarium at Deadwood, near Yankee Hill.

The speaker described various types of recreation which furnished entertainment in earlier days, such as picnics, dances, ball games, May Day celebrations and horse racing. She also told of the historical pageant given at the 1952 Apple Festival. Thirteen episodes which she planned were presented by different Paradise organizations that year.

A question-and-answer period followed Mrs. Miller's talk. She wrote her master's thesis on the subject of the ridge and describes it as a sourcebook for teachers. Mrs. Miller has been associated with the Paradise school system since 1953. She currently teaches third grade at Ponderosa Elementary School.

Mrs. Swartzlow announced that Dr. Robert Amesbury of Susanville will be guest speaker at next Monday's session. He will give an illustrated talk about Ishi and Ishi country.

# THE BIGGS NEWS



  
Biggs-Gridley Centennial  
1870 - 1970

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3-13-1970  
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## Rev. Miller continues centennial story of Butte

Dear George: I mentioned Magalia and Paradise briefly a few weeks ago and I am not repeating anything here.

### MAGALIA

Magalia was first called Dogtown because a French lady named Bassets raised mastiffs, hounds and poodles and sold them to the lonely miners for protection. They were found in saloons, homes, streets everywhere. Grenville Stewart says he was in Dogtown in 1852 and there were ten houses and 16 dogs. Thousands of miners worked up and down the streams on 12 mines. On 4-12-59 the largest gold nugget ever found in America was discovered here and it weighed 54 pounds and valued at over \$10000. It lay around for three days and no one disturbed it. As a class, miners were honest men. A larger nugget was found on Carson Hill but it was not in one solid lump like the one mentioned. A nine ounce nugget had been found in 1856 in Magalia.

The post office was conducted in Cohens Store in Mill City. James S. McClearey, postmaster, 15-8-57. It served all the hill country between Chico and Oroville. Later Cohen moved to Biggs. A school was established in 12-13-59. There were 30 pupils. John Todd was the first teacher.

The town had the regular line of business houses and one of the saloons was converted into a church.

The name of the post office was changed to Magalia 11-14-61, Almun C. Buffman was the postmaster. There had been hope that the name given would be Dogtown, but seeing there was another town of the same name, the PMG said No. It was then suggested the post office be called Magnolia the "City of Flowers" but through some misunderstanding it became Magalia.

### PARADISE

When a young preacher of Paradise was riding a young unbroken horse on Butte Creek, he was thrown off and killed. The newspaper report said "Matthews lived in Paradise, a little place near Magalia." That little place is now the largest one in Butte County. Paradise was established on Clark Road. John H. Strong, postmaster, 19-3-77. When the S.P. trains came up from Chico, they stopped at a point two miles west of Paradise, opened a depot and soon houses were built around it, and named it Orloff. Ralph M. Brown, postmaster, 30-6-05. This gave the community two towns and two post offices and there was much confusion. Finally Orloff gave up its name and Paradise gave up its post office and the entire community was united under the name PARADISE. William A. Galbraith was the last postmaster in old Paradise on Clark Road. Frances J. Day became the first postmaster of all Paradise after the union took place 17-7-11.

Paradise established a unique place in U.S. history during the Civil War. The South had cut off from the north the supply of resin and pitch. This area contributed to the war effort by extracting these things in vats from our pine trees. Men, women and children were engaged in this project. Today great gashes are to be seen in many trees. It will take another 100 years to heal the wounds.

Paradise is a church going town. There are over 20 places of worship and they are all practically full every week.

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## PENTZ

It is said Monah Pence, a 49'er, made a fortune gold mining at Rich Gulch and then bought the town of Pentz from a man named Lion in 1856. It is a fine agracultural section on the Messilla Valley. Pence was made postmaster in 8-1-64, but he did not like the spelling of his own name on the post office sign and changed it to PENTZ. A few years ago the family tried to restore the old name, Pence but county officials objected.

Store, camp meetings, hall and church services belonged to this religious center. Rev. Columbus A. Leamon was pastor of Cherokee Flatt and Pentz in 1870. His prominent church families were Horne and Cherokee Parrish of Lime Saddle, Adam Heckert a Pentz lumber merchant and the Pence family.

Here Leamon brought his inventive genius to work with the assistance of Heckert. Lumber was sent down from Sugar Pine Mill at Rag Dump, 25 miles away on a flume to Dumpville at Pentz. These men contrary to the laws of gravity placed a water wheel saddle on the two shoulders of the flume and as water flowed downhill 3,500 feet fall, the saddle traveled up hill and caused the paddle wheels to turn gears which revolved and sent the saddle back up to the mill. Passengers food stuffs, etc. were handled in this way as well as lumber. Leamon secured a patent for this in Washington, D.C. in 1876.

## CHEROKEE

All the Cherokee section as far away as Oroville, is considered a diamond and gold country—50 mines. Diamonds were first discovered here in 1853 and reports say the Indians knew of them in 1851.

John and Opheola Campbell were the first white settlers.

Cherokee mining became the most prosperous hydraulic gold and diamond opration in the world. Twelve other kinds of minerals were found, topaz, garnet, etc.

The post office was opened 18-17-54 and is one of the oldest. Mary Thomas was postmaster. One of the world's first telephone systems was laid between Cherokee and Oroville in 1878.

In 1880 President Rutherford B. Hayes and General Sherman were entertained here in the vienyards by John Bidwell and citizens.

The fine white painted two-story school house could be seen as far away as Chico. In proportion to its size Cherokee has furnished more great men than any other community in Butte County. Religious services were conducted by Welsh miners in their own language, not English.

## YANKEE HILL and Area

Yankee Hill was settled by a man named Hill. In 1850 three men did so well mining they called the place Rich Gulch. One writer lists 30 bars and gulches in this area and hydraulic mining was carried on extensively in 187 with six stamp mills being in operation. The Hearst mine alone is said to have had one and a half million dollars to its credit. Towns in most of this area had their own dance halls, stores, etc. The names of many of these places indicate where the miners had come from or the plight they found themselves in.

William Leonard, who later established Paradise, had a steam sawmill nearby in Spring Gulch.

Frenchtown was one of the mines. A meeting was held in 1854 at this place to protest against the bad use of whites toward Indian women. They said "If the law will do nothing we will.

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4-17-1970

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## CENTENNIAL STORY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Where Is

### New Philadelphia?

Where is New Philadelphia anyhow? The writer searched through history books, inquired of people near and far and traveled for miles around without solving the mystery. Finally, an article appeared in a local magazine which shed light on the subject by speaking of it being on the Cherokee-Oroville stage route and located on the opposite side of the Feather River from Oroville, practically within the city limits today under the name Thompson Flatt. (Old spelling.)

The town seems to have had four names. One authority says the community was first mined for gold in 1851 by the Cherokee Indians and was known as Cherokee Flat No. 1.

**Rich Gulch.** As a result of successful and unusual gold and diamond production the village became known as Rich Gulch and boasted of stores and other places of business.

**Thompson Flat.** After the disastrous fire at Bidwell Bar in 1854, George Thompson moved his place of business from there down to a level piece of ground near Rich Bar and entered the grocery business. The site became known as the Flat and was three miles long and two miles wide. Ambitious people had hopes of the place becoming the county seat. People living in scattered around dwellings when they wanted food supplies spoke of going to Thompson's on the Flat and in time Thompson Flat became the accepted name of the place; through public custom rather than the ambition of the owner.

## NEW PHILADELPHIA

Mason Hutchin Darrach, an energetic and resourceful young man of Philadelphia, Pa., came to the settlement with others seeking his fortune. Soon this ambitious and brilliant young citizen became an acknowledged leader in Butte County life.

He made an investment in land and consolidated the scattered community into the semblance of a town. In 1854 Darrach engaged the services of C. E. Campbell to survey and lay out the town in blocks, streets and advertised lots for sale. Then, according to the Union Weekly Record of Oroville, he called a public meeting composed of miners and townspeople and in an eloquent and forceful speech laid before this gathering the claims of the great city of "Brotherly Love" and asked that they name the town they live in New Philadelphia in honor of his homeland city. His enthusiasm and stirring appeal, and the recognition he had done so much for the betterment of the town, influenced the vote at the meeting to be decisive in calling it New Philadelphia.

It seems pretty certain that Thompson Flat and New Phila-

delphia cover the same surface. Will C. Parker, former supt. of Butte County schools and historian, told the writer he has no doubt that Thompson Flat was called New Philadelphia, as he has seen a bundle of postal envelopes dated 1855 and addressed to "John Doe," New Philadelphia, then suddenly the same bundle contained letters to the same "John Doe" addressed to Thompson Flat.

John Cole was born in 1856 in New Philadelphia and always claimed the location was later called Thompson Flat. His grave is the oldest one in the cemetery.

The town grew and the place was fairly large as the Methodist church records show when Rev. Isaac W. Cole was moved from Bidwell Bar in 1855 to have spiritual oversight of the people in New Philadelphia, its officially recognized name. Cole remained for two years but there was no church building. School was opened in 1855. Prof. Cox was the teacher. The little town of Sebastopol was about two miles to the northeast.



A disastrous fire swept over New Philadelphia and it arose again under the name Thompson Flat.

On Feb. 3rd, 1857, a post office was established under the name Thompson Flat. Frances Peters was the first postmaster. In 1870 it was discontinued to Oroville. We are indebted to Ruby Swartzlow for postal information.

The town had an unusually fine and modern hotel named the Western House, with "the prince of landlords as proprietor, F. C. Thomas." An outstanding ball which gave the community a thrill, was held in this building at Thompson Flat Monday, Dec. 27, 1858. Some of the outstanding names on the invitation committee were: R. C. Gaskill, Forbestown; Major John Bidwell, Chico; George H. Crossett, Oroville; A. L. Chamberlain, Bidwell Bar.

The Union Record as late as Dec. 31st, 1864, vigorously opposed the name of the town as being Thompson Flat and stoutly defended the action taken 10 years previous when the meeting (of 1854) voted to name the town New Philadelphia. There are still champions for this name in the county.

During the Civil War Mason H. Darrach joined the Oroville Militia and was promoted to the rank of captain. The militia were resplendent in their fine uniforms and always had great celebrations when news came of Union victories. Captain Darrach was associated with about everything for the betterment of the community. He had an interest in one of the seven stage companies which ran from Cherokee to Oroville,

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president of several mines. As county clerk he held this office with distinction. He was president of the Calif.-Northern Railroad which ran from Marysville to Oroville, the 4th in the state. It was opened for passenger traffic Feb. 9, 1864. The first train on the opening day brought the Marysville mayor, city officials and the militia. There were brass bands, speeches by men like John Bidwell and others, general festivities and attractions for the children and the day wound up with a grand ball.

Darrach had persuaded the people to invest \$200,000 in railroad bonds for the project. He passed away Feb. 1st, 1871, aged 48 years.

It is said his funeral was the largest ever seen in Oroville until that day. A special train brought a large concourse of officials and friends from the south to pay their respects to this valued citizen who had given 20 years of faithful service in the development of Butte County.

## MORRIS RAVINE

The whole area described in this article seems to have been pretty well endowed with diamonds and gold, and is an extension of Thompson Flat. Mining was begun by Charles Morris who was formerly employed at Neal's Esquon. In 1863 there were 19 pupils in the school here.

# Trip to Cherokee Easy, Fascinating

By JACK STOUT

Historic Cherokee — birthplace of hydraulic mining and source of both diamonds and gold — beckons the visitors to the Oroville Area and is a constant delight to the natives.

Getting them from here is most of the fun because every inch of the few-mile drive up the winding road has its own appealing view or direct link to history. The road itself reeks with the color and aroma of its stage coach line origin — its every bend providing concealment for the highwayman.

Any spot on Montgomery Street west of Bridge Street is a good place from which to start on a trip to Cherokee where the ruins of an ancient assay office and cliffs exposed by pressured water released through holes by the gold seekers are favorite subjects for film and brush.

One good place to start is the intersection of Montgomery and Myers streets. Myer's is overlooked by Municipal Auditorium, the renovated version of what was once known as Oroville Exposition Hall and was once the home of Orange and Olive exhibitions.

Heading toward the rising sun along Montgomery Street the traveler will notice on the left the Relic (Museum) Building maintained by the Native Daughters of the Golden West. It's well worth visiting.

Still going eastward along historic Montgomery Street, the traveler next passes between Oroville Memorial (to war veterans) Hall on the left and Oroville Monday Club House on the right. Either is worth a visit. The first dates back to the 18th century. The latter is still the center of contemporary Oroville society.

To continue on toward Cherokee the traveler will turn to the left at the spotlight on the hill where Montgomery Street hits Bridge Street. Crossing the upper Thermalito Bridge — the only access to Oroville from Thermalito and points north and west — the traveler can see to his left the new Feather

River Hatchery, man's answer to the interference with the balance of nature caused by dams (Thermalito and Oroville) stopping the upstream march of the spawning King Salmon.

Off to the right can be seen the fish barrier dam that diverts the fish to the hatchery and beyond it the Thermalito Diversion Dam. State facilities on either side of the road include comfort stations.

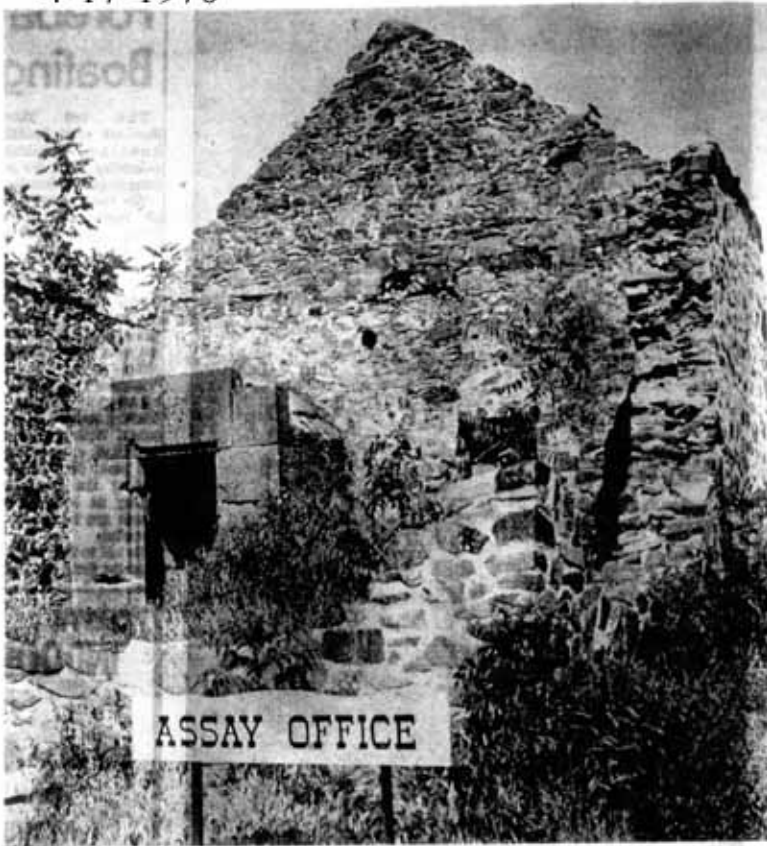
Off to the right as the traveler tops the hill, shielded somewhat by the tall palms, can be seen the ravaged remains of an Orange Grove that over 30 years ago was killed by the most disastrous freeze in a century. Contrast that with the flourishing olive grove on the left. The traveler is now on the Old Oroville-Chico road, long since renamed Table Mountain Boulevard to conform geographically to the mesa ahead that is South Table Mountain. It is on the other side of the mountain Cherokee miners dug for gold and screened for diamonds.

Where Table Mountain Boulevard flattens out on the edge of the rolling prairie the Cherokee Road takes off to the right toward the mountains.

Before reaching the hills the traveler will cross the Thermalito Power Canal, an unusual portion of the State Water Project. During off-peak power hours the generators of the Thermalito Power house reverse and pump the water back through the canal for reuse.

Next the road spans a gorge carved out for relocation of the Western Pacific Railroad because of the water project. As the Cherokee Road curves its way around the hills on its upward climb the traveler looking out over the pool formed by the diversion dam is reminded that beneath the water lies buried — probably to the delight of its architect — the historic Chinese Wall.

That wall built at great expense by master masons imported from Italy, was to have diverted the river so that the vast accumulation of traveler can see to his left gold nuggets and dust could be scooped up like sand. It



MONUMENT — The empty shell that once was the Cherokee Assay office still stands as a mute reminder of when its vault held tons of gold gleaned from the rich diggings of the area. Today the weathered remains attract visitors

armed with cameras or paints. Signs posted along the road spot the locations of where major buildings of the town stood when Cherokee boasted the largest hydraulic mining operation in the world.

became known as its builder's folly when it dried the riverbed to expose rusty picks and shovels and broken bits of flumes used by miners who earlier had gleaned its riches. The lava cap that is the top of South Table Mountain now towers high above the traveler winding and winding higher and higher toward the destination.

Geologists reading the mountain's history report that it was once at the bottom of a river or an inland sea. Its geographical changes can be traced to volcanic action that reshaped the surface, lining the sea bed with lava. In intervening centuries the sea receded and resultant hills eroded, leaving lava capped deposits standing high in the air.

A band of Indians, transplanted from the Oklahoma Territory to northern California under the direction of a white schoolteacher, gave Cherokee their tribal identity. On approaching Cherokee from Oroville the traveler will pass on his left the Cherokee Cemetery with its monument dating back to the 1850's and its graves antedating that. A moment's pause here is a trip back through time.

Before reaching the cemetery on the outskirts of Cherokee the traveler will have passed on his right a road (Oregon Gulch) branching off to the east. That is a road worth following on the return trip to Oroville. It winds through the ruins of smelters, hammer mills and other remnants of the mining era. A monument to a band of settlers from Oregon relates its history.

Retracing his path back up the gulch to the Oroville-Cherokee road and on toward

Oroville the traveler will — at different times of the year — see plunging water falls down the face of sheer cliffs, in the late winter; a carpet of flowers in the early spring; a desert oasis in the heat of summer; spectacular splashes of a purple paint brush in the fall — and any season something to delight the eye.

The historic Judge C.F. Lett home in Sank Park is located on Montgomery Street between Third and Fourth avenues. The park and gold rush era home were donated to the City of Oroville by the late Jess Sank.

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June 1970

Tales of the Paradise Ridge, page 1 of 3

appendix II  
early history of  
pentz, butte  
county

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**I**n April of 1878, my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lyte, a sister and I came from Ely, Vermont to live on Dry Creek near Pentz or the Dump, as it was then known. At that time it was quite a lively place. It was the lumber dump of the old Flea Valley Lumber Company and employed a large number of men both in the hills about 30 miles from here and at Pentz. The Company had a V flume and floated the lumber down. I can remember the flume well and all the large buildings and piles of lumber. The Company cut all their best sugar pine and used it to build the flume. Then their best timber was gone, causing the Company to go broke. It sold the buildings and what

lumber there was left and so ended the lumber industry in Pentz.

When I first went to school I got out at 3 o'clock and had to wait for my sister until 4:00, as we had to walk the 4 miles home. My classmate, Walton Wood, and I would go over and watch the ox teams go by and see the blacksmith, Mr. Aaron Burt, shoe the oxen. He had a strong frame made of heavy timbers and would hoist the ox up off the ground and then nail on the shoes, two on each foot.

The drivers never tied them up while they rested and some would lie down in the road and seemed glad to rest. They hauled such heavy loads in the hot weather in dust up to their knees. There were



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usually 8 or 10 oxen to a team, and they certainly had long horns!

Pentz was quite a settlement at that time. There were two hotels, a feed yard, a restaurant, a barber shop, a grocery store, saloon, and the Hall, which was built about 1879. There was a daily stage from Oroville, and the Henry Morrison stage twice a week from Chico to Deadwood to the Chinese Doctor's Sanitarium on the road to Concow, beyond what was then known as Spanishtown.

The Chinese doctor first located on Clear Creek where the Herbert Compton home now stands.

Pentz was first settled by Manoah Pence and was one of the finest stock, fruit and grain farms in this part of the state. He kept the hotel and had a large dance hall. On Saturday nights all the miners would congregate there and make merry till the wee small hours of morn. When they established the post office Mr. Pence did not want it named for him so it was named Pentz—but the voting precinct is now Pence. He was the first postmaster. When we first came here we got our mail from Cherokee Flat, as Cherokee was then known. On June 1st, 1912, the Rural Delivery was first established and the mail was delivered by horse and buggy through Pentz to Cherokee and back to Oroville. Will Leonard was the Oroville postmaster then, and it was due to his efforts we have rural free delivery now. Mrs. Jennie Mor-tinson was our last postmistress and I think Mr. DeWitt Salsburg was our first rural driver.

Our school house was moved from back of Chico Meat feed corrals to its present location in 1877. They used oak skids to move it and had every mule and horse in the vicinity to do the work. It's the same original building but the porches on the east and south have been put on since. While I went to

school there we had 42 scholars one winter. I never went to any other school nor did my two sons. Times are surely much different now than in my school days. Now the buses come and get the children and bring them home at night. We had to walk 4 miles, and later we had an old mare, Nellie, to ride. We took turns riding.

At one time there were four hydraulic mines working within five miles of Pentz. Among them was the famous Cherokee mine, famed for its diamonds and other valuable stones. In those days there was no giant power or carbide for lights. All the blasting was done with black powder. The men would dig small drifts (or coyote holes) as they were called and put in as much as 500 pounds to a blast. This would blow up the bank. Then the water nozzles would be turned on and the gravels would be forced down into the sluice box where there was quick-silver to catch the gold.

After the Anti-Debris Commission stopped the hydraulicking, the Chinese leased the claim here in the canyon and cleaned up what the white men left. At one time there were about 40 Chinese working here, and I surely was afraid of them.

About the year of 1887, the Jesse Wood family at their Eyrie Villa orchard started a cannery on quite a large scale and canned all kinds of fruit by the case. When I worked for them, there were about 10 of us paring the fruit and preparing it to can. All the work was done by hand in those days. They didn't have machines to work with. They also dried lots of French prunes, and that was the beginning of the dried prune industry in this part of the country. Grapes, too, were raised on a large scale on the Durban Ranch. Both blue mission wine grapes and large muscats for rais-



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sins were produced. They dried tons of raisins and gave work to quite a lot of women and girls in the fall packing them in boxes for shipping. The blue grapes he sold for wine mostly in Cherokee.

About 1894 the grasshoppers were very thick and they ate all the raisin vineyards here. Strange, too, the pests didn't bother the blue grapes at all but killed all the white ones and the owners were so discouraged they didn't replant again. There were quite a lot of grape plantings on the Pence and Lee ranches too, but hoppers got them all.

One year on the Shisler place a large tract of cotton was planted, but it did not do so well. Nevertheless, it was quite a novelty to those who had never seen cotton growing. Tobacco, too, was raised here by several parties, and Joe Freydt won three dollars as second prize at the Second Citrus Fair in Oroville in 1888 on tobacco. We also had two lime kilns here, one on the Joe Curtis place, and the other on the Parrish place. Said to be the best lime in the state, the product found ready sale in Chico.

Our most outstanding event was in 1881, when President and Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes visited Pentz and talked to the people from the porch of the Pence Hotel. About 200 people came from around the countryside to see the President. The President and party were guests of the General Bidwell's in Chico, and were on their way to see Cherokee mine operations. They were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Waldeyers that evening. They panned some gold at the mine, and Mrs. Hayes was presented with a

Cherokee diamond to take home, and she was much pleased with it.

In the late eighties oranges and olives were first planted on a large scale in Butte County. Quite a number were planted in our vicinity. Among them are the Joe Curtis orchard on the Magalia Road and down on the Oroville Road below Pentz are three large groves: the Chaffin, Cooper, and Berkeley Association plantings. The latter is said to be the largest olive grove in the world. These orchards give employment to a large number of people during harvest.

The Chico Meat Company also has a large holding in and near Pentz and during haying season employs quite a crew of men. They also raise cattle and hogs for market. The Pacific Gas & Electric Company had two power plants within three miles of Pentz and a large dam of water up on the Magalia road to furnish power to them. They supply electricity for the Hall, the schoolhouse, and all the families near their lines. The P. G. & E. keeps a crew of men all the year round in their plants and on the ditch lines.

So you see, dear reader, our community has had its ups and downs through the 63 years I have been here, but I would not exchange my memories of the past for a king's palace. Memories of my childhood spent among these hills gathering wild flowers, pine nuts or fishing and wading in the creek with my dear sister and brother who have both been laid to rest these many years. I am now the lone member of our family left, so will bring my musings to an end.

(May, 1941)

Contributed by Nessie Lyte Blum of R.F.D. 1, Box 199, Oroville for the information of Messilla Valley School pupils in May of 1941.

Oroville Mercury Register  
6-15-1970

## **\$120,000 Loss In Yankee Hill Brush Fire**

A brush and timber fire believed caused by careless bottle hunters burned over 10 acres off Yankee Hill Road and Highway 70 late Saturday resulting in an estimated \$120,000 damage.

Most of the damage was to the valuable watershed, according to the California Division of Forestry, with loss of fencing included in the total.

Five units aided by a bulldozer and air support fought the 5:30 p.m. fire.

The fire, extinguished Saturday night, rekindled about 3:30 p.m. Sunday but caused no additional damage.



# The Times Standard (Eureka, CA)

7-30-1970

## *Family Information*

Mrs. H. E. (Ella) Collins of 915 Paloma Ave., Stockton, 95207, writes Redwood Country in an effort to obtain information about members of her family. I appreciate the fact Mrs. Collins was directed my way by a pair of readers, Pauline and Mary Flynn, but when it comes to doing genealogical work, I find time is an element much needed—something I don't always have. So, I'm going to refer her letter to Redwood Genealogical Society of Fortuna—maybe that efficient group can assist.

Mrs. Collins seeks information on Antone and Barbara Nasher who came to Ferndale in 1878. They came from Braunsburg, Germany. Their children were Barbara who married Conrad Wittman, Elizabeth married to John Forelsman, Augusta married George Peters ("my family"), Rose married Adam Slissman, Bertha married Matthew Neville, Mary married Martin Heinz, and Frank, never married.

She says, "I know most of their (Antone and Barbara) children were born in or around Cherokee or Oregon Gulch near Oroville. The Wittmans came to Ferndale in 1875, the Freismans in 1876, the Slissmans in 1875, and the Heinz' in 1886."

While I am referring the letter to the genealogical society, interested readers may contact Mrs. Collins, if they wish.

NOTE: It appears the Nasher family moved to Ferndale when Adam Slissman and Conrad Wittman married two of the daughters and moved to Ferndale to take up farming.



# Sacramento Bee

8-24-1970

## Paradise Man Is Held After Shotgun Report

PARADISE, Butte Co. — Wesley Gramps, 32, is in the Butte County jail for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon after he reportedly threatened his estranged wife with a shotgun.

Deputies arrested him Saturday night following an altercation at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gramps.

Gramps reportedly had called and asked his wife, Donna, from whom he is separated, to bring their baby to his parents' home to visit him. When she arrived with a friend, Louise Ludwig, deputies said, Gramps took her behind the garage, picked up a double-barreled shotgun gave her two notes, and threatened to shoot her. One note was to their 11-month-old child and the other was a suicide note, according to the officers.

Mrs. Gramps ran screaming to the front of the house, and attempted to leave in the car. Gramps allegedly struggled with her, but she escaped by running into the house and later to a neighbor's house. Mrs. Ludwig ran to a nearby road and caught a ride to the sheriff's substation where she reported the incident.

## CENTENNIAL STORY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### Centennial Church Story

#### DURHAM

The stopping place for trains in 1870 between Nelson and Chico was Robles, but as a life saver it was moved south to Durham. Much interesting material about this little town has already editorially appeared in Centennial writings and therefore it is not necessary to repeat save that Robt. W. Durham was Sam Neal's clerk and bookkeeper at Neal Esquon Store in 1844 and was of Pony Express fame later.

#### CHURCH

In the 60's the Durham community was shepherded by the Methodist Church of Chico and in 1875 the church in Durham became the head of a circuit, Rev. J. W. White, pastor. He was succeeded by C. H. Darling, who reported 125 scholars in Sunday school. (This may have included other counties). Rev. J. W. Sheehan, formerly an Irish Catholic, succeeded Darling. One stormy night after having preached a revival sermon in Oroville, he and his horse were drowned in a Butte Creek flood on his way home to Durham. One of his daughters told the writer that was where their home was. Alvin S. Kister, former sheriff of Butte County, was one of Sheehan's grandsons. The old church records of Biggs inform us there were several active members in the Durham church and Parkelia Nichols and Jane Cook are mentioned.

#### EXIT

Toward the end of the 19th century the Methodist Church gave up its work in Durham and the Church of the Brethren entered the field. As happened in Gridley, the United Brethren Church united with the Methodist Church in 1968 and formed the United Methodist Church of Durham. Satisfactory progress is being made in the interests of the Kingdom. The present membership of the church is 157.

#### FOSTER

It should be said here that when the town of Durham installed electric light it was Joseph Foster, a Methodist of Biggs, who did the work and upon its completion the system was handed over to the PGE. Joe was the depot agent in Biggs for several years.

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH

In the summer and fall of 1921 the Catholic Church in Cherokee was dismantled and moved to Durham where it was rebuilt. It was consecrated for worship 11-20-21 by Bishop Michael O'Connell, Rev. J. B. Dermondy, pastor. The church was burned to the ground in June, 1944 and rebuilt.

#### MERRIFIELD

Parents of Mrs. Elizabeth Merrifield did much work in moving the church from Cherokee to Durham. Her oldest son was the first child to be baptized in the church there and the first one to be married.

#### CHEROKEE

The Catholic Church was built in Cherokee at an early date. It burned to the ground and a second one was built and moved to Durham in 1921.

Rev. J. J. Powell organized the Welsh Congregational Church in Cherokee and the miners conducted the service in the Welsh language.

The Methodists began church work in Cherokee as part of the Bidwell Bar Circuit of 1825-53, Elijah Merchant, circuit rider. In 1859 it was added to the Chico Methodist Church, Judge Randall Hobart of Bidwell Bar, pastor. In 1869 Cherokee Methodists were able to stand alone, with the inclusion of Pentz. There were 38 members and a parsonage. In 1873 the church was added to Biggs Circuit. Prominent church families at Cherokee and Pentz were Horne, Pence, Heckert and Parrish. Lime Saddle was the residence of the Parrish family.

#### EDUCATION

John Baldwin was pastor at Cherokee in 1869. He was not quite a success in the ministry and he resigned and entered college. Upon graduation he was readmitted in the Methodist ministry and ever afterwards he did excellent work. So much for an education.

#### DAYTON

Before Durham was established Dayton and Cherokee seem have been the two chief religious centers immediately south of Chico. According to old records, the Methodists were established in Dayton in the early 60s under the active leadership of H. N. Compton, pastor of the church at Chico. Dr. Jacob Gruwell, presiding elder, conducted a quarterly meeting for Compton in Dayton, in 1863 and the church was doing good work at the time. A Union church was built in 1870 and Wells in his history, says it was a Campbellite church.

A short distance east of Durham was Sam Neals Esquon in Butte Valley. The post office was established there Jan. 23, 1861 at Johnsons Ranch. Peter Munn was the first postmaster.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school was conducted

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in 1890 in the Butte Valley schoolhouse with 'Gospel Songs' being used as the hymnal.

As far back as 1872, according to the Record, the Butte Valley Day School was in excellent condition and for the month ending Dec. 20 of that year the names of the distinguished pupils were published for perfect deportment:

Misses Leotici Fimple, Amanda Lowrey, Amelia Lowrey; Delbert Fimple, Henry Peterson, John Hill, Leroy Fimple, George Ricketts, William Ricketts, Samuel Peterson, Emmitt Coon, Albert Coon. Teacher, J. C. Rogers.

#### BANGOR

Bangor was a separate appointment of the Methodist church in 1870. It received pastoral attention from E. Paddison and was conducted with Bidwell Bar Methodism in the early 50's. In 1872 H. P. Blood reported 43 members of the church. In 1886 it was added to the Biggs Circuit. Gardener Osgood and W. A. Eachs were Sunday school superintendents for many years and held other offices in the church. John Aldersby, Mrs. Mary Clark, Mrs. Mary E. Danby, Mr. and Mrs. George Houser, Mrs. Sarah E. Kendal, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kitchen, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Nelson and Elizabeth Verney were all outstanding workers in the church. Members of the Hastings family of Biggs belonged to Bangor church.

The United Brethren Church was organized here at an early date.

#### MOORE'S STATION (Honcut)

Moore's Station was named after L. C. Moore. John Appleton built a Methodist Church there in 1883, when it had a membership of only four, at a cost of \$1900, and it was part of the Biggs Circuit that year. F. E. Willard was superintendent of the Sunday school, the average attendance of which was 30, yet this little group donated the bell in the Biggs church. Other officers were Mrs. Anna Willard, John W. Ashby, Wm. and Mrs. Post, J. S. Coplantz, N. F. Wood, Wm. Benston, Mrs. Mary E. Butler, Mrs. Sahar Smith, Mrs. L. Luce and Mrs. Mary Bishop. In 1919 the church was destroyed by fire and a new one took its place.

#### OROVILLE

Of the older churches in Oroville, the Catholic Church claims first place, having been built and dedicated for worship Thursday, May 21, 1857. The Methodist Church in Forbestown was the first one built in the county and dedicated Sunday, New Year's Day, 1854. Alexander McLean, a Methodist minister arrived at Bidwell Bar circuit in April 1852 and the work has continued since then being established in New Philadelphia (now Thompson Flat, in 1855 by Rev. Isaac B. Cole and the following year in Oroville by Burton and assistants, and built a brick parsonage. The Congregationalists were in Oroville, the same year, 1856 and built a church in 1858. The Methodists took care of the services in the Congregational Church in 1859 to help the work along. Biggs Methodist Church also assisted in the religious work at Live Oak and for one year gave assistance to Yuba City Methodism.

#### PARADISE

The Methodists were working in the Paradise field in 1875. E. Matthews, pastor.

The Congregationalist Church was organized on Sept. 28, 1879. A Sunday school at least was supported at Hamilton and our late citizen Mrs. Jennie LaPoint when a child attended Sunday school there in the bar room of her father's hotel.

A number of Biggs residents speak of the days when services were held in the Floral Schoolhouse at the "Y" Corner in the 80's. The services were very well attended.

Others have written about their traveling experiences and the immense benefit they derived from attending religious services at Long's Bar on the Lord's Day.

TOM MILLER

12-22-1970

## Mining Figure Asks Local Rock Be Used on College

OROVILLE. (E-R) — James W. Lenhoff of Oroville, past president of the Butte County Mining Council, yesterday urged the Butte Junior College District Board of Trustees to utilize local materials in the construction of Butte College's future campus at Pentz and Clark Roads.

In a letter to the board, Lenhoff noted there are "various decorative stone materials indigenous to Butte County which may be used in the development of the new campus on the edge of Messilla Valley.

"As a matter of fact," he wrote, "at nearby Yankee Hill are colorful serpentine and quartz deposits which would lend considerable beauty to the college and would be available at reasonable cost, certainly not in excess of imported materials."

The letter went on to say, "Since the mining properties of Butte County will be called upon to assist in paying for the

new college, the Mining Council urges you to pass a formal resolution calling on the architect to specify local materials wherever possible.

"I feel that such a resolution is consistent with good design, for even the common river rocks from our dredger tailings have been used in some of our finest buildings, witness the Medical Arts Center in Oroville. . . . Almost every known mineral is to be found in Butte County, including marble and black jade, so there is a wide selection from which to choose."

Without passing a formal resolution, the college trustees already have expressed a desire to utilize local materials for the campus project.

Lenhoff's letter will be considered by the board at its next meeting Jan. 7.